

notes by the members of the expedition which add much to our knowledge of the habits of the birds of this wonderful country.

Many new forms have already been described from these collections, but others, recognized as the critical study of the material progressed, are here described for the first time. These are: *Ciccinnurus regius claudii* (p. 16); *Lophorhina superba feminina* (p. 27); *Ptilotis salvadorii utakwensis* (p. 71); *Pachycephala soror klossi* (p. 88); *Lalage karu microrhyncha* (p. 118); and *Pseudogerygone conspicillata mimikae* (p. 168). New forms described from other parts of New Guinea or elsewhere are as follows: *Diphyllodes rothschildi* (p. 24), Salawatti; *Pachycephala soror bartoni* (p. 88), British New Guinea; *Rhipidura harterti* (p. 149), Rendova, Solomon Isls.; *Poecilodryas brachyura dumasi* (p. 162), Northern New Guinea; *Microcca griseiceps bartoni* (p. 174), Mt. Manacao; *Alcyon richardsi aolae* (p. 206), Aola, Guadalcanar, Solomon Isls.; *A. r. bougainvillei* (p. 207), Bougainville, Solomon Isls.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant has evidently spared no pains to make his report as full and accurate as possible and he has succeeded in producing one of the most valuable contributions to the ornithology of New Guinea that has yet appeared. With so many points of excellence to its credit it is regrettable to find the old custom perpetuated of designating two types — a male and female. In case these should eventually prove to belong to different forms — and such things have occurred! — we immediately have an opportunity for a nomenclatural entanglement, which would have been entirely avoided by designating but one type specimen. — W. S.

Chapin on New Birds from the Belgian Congo.¹— Continuing the critical study of the collection obtained by the American Museum Congo Expedition, Mr. Chapin describes four new species. These are a Starling, *Stilbopsar leucothorax* (p. 23), from the Ituri District; *Paludipasser uelensis* (p. 24), from the Upper Uele District, a curious Weaver Finch, apparently congeneric with Mr. S. A. Neave's *Paludipasser locustella* from Lake Bangweolo; another Weaver, *Malimbus flavipes*, (p. 27), Ituri District and a warbler, *Bradypterus carpalis* (p. 27), from the papyrus swamps of the Upper Uele. Drawings of head and feet accompany the excellent descriptions and a few remarks on habits are added, forming a welcome relief from the all too prevalent meagre diagnoses which characterize many present day systematic papers. — W. S.

Oberholser on Races of the Crested Tern.²— This is another of Mr. Oberholser's careful monographs, treating of a group that has recently

¹ Four New Birds from the Belgian Congo. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, Art. III, pp. 23-29. February 21, 1916.

² A Synopsis of the Races of the Crested Tern, *Thalasseus bergii* (Lichtenstein). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 49, pp. 515-526, Plate 66. December 23, 1915.

received considerable attention from authors, notably Mr. Mathews and Mr. Stresemann. As Mr. Oberholser's material was not available to either of these authors his investigations have a peculiar value in checking up their conclusions.

Eleven races are recognized, all but one of which fortunately are already provided with names. This form from Pata Island, southern Philippines, is described as *Thalasseus bergii halodramus* (p. 522). Mr. Bang's race *boreotis* from the Riu Kiu Islands is synonymized with *T. b. cristatus*.

While there may be a difference of opinion as to the advisability of raising *Thalasseus* to full generic rank it is a satisfaction to see this name used for this group instead of for the Caspian Tern as is done in the A. O. U. Check-List, a mistake against which the reviewer has long contended. Mr. Oberholser's statement regarding one form of which he was unable to see specimens is significant. He says, "there is no trouble at all in distinguishing it... merely from the measurements given by Mr. Stresemann." Had Mr. Stresemann neglected to give measurements as has been done in some recent diagnoses of new forms, the status of this race could not have been settled in the present monograph! — W. S.

Riley on a New Hazel Grouse.¹—The United States National Museum having recently acquired a series of typical *Tetrastes bonasia septentrionalis* Mr. Riley finds that specimens from Manchuria formerly referred to that form are quite distinct and he proposes for them the name *T. b. amurensis* (p. 17), type locality I-mien-po, N. Kirin.—W. S.

McGregor on a New Prionochilus.²—This new flower-picker which is here named *Prionochilus anthonyi* (p. 531) was procured on Polis Mountain, Luzon, in the mossy forest at 2000 ft. elevation. It differs in pattern of coloration from any other Philippine species. A colored plate accompanies Mr. McGregor's paper.—W. S.

Chapman on New Colombian Birds.³—Dr. Chapman here proposes twenty-five new species and subspecies as a result of his further studies of the collections of the American Museum. As in his previous papers the descriptions are accompanied by extended remarks on allied forms which add materially to our knowledge of the groups treated. The new forms here described belong to the following genera, *Crypturus*, *Tachytriorchis*, *Herpetotheres*, *Aulacorhynchus*, *Picumnus*, *Conopophaga*, *Microbatas*, *Xiphorhynchus*, *Siptornis*, *Automolus*, *Manacus*, *Phyllomyias*, *Habrura*, *Microcerculus*,

¹ Description of a New Hazel Grouse from Manchuria. By J. H. Riley. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXIX, pp. 17-18. January 25, 1916.

² Description of a New Species of Prionochilus from the Highlands of Luzon. By Richard C. McGregor. Philippine Jour. of Sci., IX, No. 6, Sec. D. November, 1914.

³ Diagnoses of Apparently New Colombian Birds. IV. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXIV, Art. XXIII, pp. 635-662. December 30, 1915.